



# NEWSLETTER

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter 2010

## Beginning a New Decade

### Special points of interest:

- TPLF President Keri Gilbert
- Councilmember Susan Rhilinger
- City Librarian Paula Weiner
- Two New Electronic Resources
- Major Donors

**Next Event!**  
**Wed., March 3**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Katy Geissert**  
**Civic Center Library**  
**27-year LAPD vet,**  
**Torrance Resident,**  
**Mystery Writer**  
**CONNIE DIAL**

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Lola Ungar, TPLF Editor



I would like to wish all of our members a happy new year and to thank you

again for your support in 2009! The Torrance Public Library Foundation is going to be sponsoring two author events to draw more attention to the needs of the Library and to raise the money that is essential to provide more Library services.

On Wednesday, March 3, Connie Dial will discuss her law enforce-

ment career and the novels she has written based on her experiences. Ms. Dial graduated from the FBI National Academy and worked her way up the ranks of the LAPD, retiring as (at the time) the only female area community officer in the department. She and her husband, a retired detective, reside in Torrance.

Her most recent novels are *Internal Affairs* and *The Broken Blue Line*, which will be released in June.

Then on Wednesday, April 7, Bill Boyarsky,

former columnist and city editor of the Los Angeles Times and winner of three Pulitzer Prizes, will discuss his most recent book, *Inventing LA: The Chandlers and Their Times*. According to the publisher, this is "the tale of the Chandlers' reign over Los Angeles with the help of their mighty scepter, the Los Angeles Times, and their entwinement with politics, family feud and fortune."

Books will be available for purchase and refreshments served. Come join us!

**Keri Gilbert, President**

## Board member profile Susan Rhilinger



Susan grew up in Boston, MA, and moved to Los Angeles with her family in 1961. She completed a BA Degree at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, after spending her junior year in Paris, France. While still at college, she applied for a position as a police officer for the City of Torrance and five months later began what would become a 32-year career as a sworn police officer. While with the department, she earned a Masters in Management from Cal Poly Pomona and attended the FBI National Academy in Quantico Virginia.

When she retired in 2002, she

had broken the proverbial glass ceiling several times and culminated her career as Police Captain with the Torrance Police Department.

In June, 2008, Susan was elected to the Torrance City Council. She represents the City of Torrance on the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG) as a member of their Legislative Committee and in turn, represents the SBCCOG with the South Bay Area Chambers of Commerce. In August 2008, she was elected to the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments, representing the cities of Carson, Lomita, and Torrance.

She continues her community involvement by serving on the Salvation Army Advisory Board, with the Torrance Public Library Foundation, Torrance Symphony Board, and Exxon-Mobil Citizen Advisory Panel.

Since her election to the City Council, all of her many nieces and nephews anxiously await their chance to ride with her in the annual Armed Forces Day Parade! Although nowadays her reading time usually involves agendas and backup materials for her various civic responsibilities, when she can steal a few hours she enjoys escaping reality with her favorite author, Nora Roberts aka J D Robb.

### UNIQUE FRIENDS

The Friends of the Torrance Library will have their next quarterly used book sale in the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library Meeting Room on the afternoon of April 23 (for members only), and all day April 24 (for everyone). This will be a hardback sale with books priced mostly at \$1.50, some slightly higher. And as usual, the sale will feature the *Unique Table* with special books – oversize, art, sets, and rare finds – on sale for somewhat higher (but still affordable) prices. If you love books, don't miss this sale.

### ON THE MOVE

Sadly, Board member Ken Jackson has resigned because he has been transferred by ExxonMobil to his home state (and preferred retirement location) of Texas, so this is a great career move for Ken and his family.

Ken has been a very supportive and influential member of the Foundation and his absence will be strongly felt. We wish him all the best and hope he knows how much we will miss him and his creative ideas and passion "foer" the library.



## City Librarian's Message...

With the start of a new decade, the Torrance Public Library continues to expand and enhance its many services and programs. Over the past year, we have enjoyed offering reference and circulation services from our newly-remodeled first floor at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library. The installation of new electrical wiring and cabling, in addition to comfortable seating and more computers, has enabled the Library to offer many more users access to the wealth of resources available through the Library's web site and WiFi connection. It is not uncommon to see all of the study carrel seating filled with students and adults busily tapping away on their laptops!

The Community Meeting Room was also upgraded with state-of-the-art audiovisual equipment, and new furnishings and the new meeting space has been well used by the Library and community groups offering an array of programs on varied topics. Don't forget to check the Library's printed *Monthly Calendar of Events* available at all locations and/or the City of Torrance Online Events Calendar at [www.TorranceCA.Gov/Events](http://www.TorranceCA.Gov/Events) so you don't miss any of the exciting programs, meetings, and festivals that

we have planned for you.

We are also making great progress in renovating our branch facilities. Southeast, El Retiro, and Henderson Libraries received new seismically-safe shelving, energy efficient lighting, carpet, and interior paint, WiFi access to the Internet, and beautiful new Circulation Desks courtesy of the Torrance Public Library Foundation and Friends of the Torrance Library. Still to come will be the completion of the Walteria and North Torrance Libraries.

In the coming year, we will be working on improving technology at the Library, making it easier to access the Library's resources. For example, the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library will soon have a high-tech kiosk to help patrons find their way throughout the building. Look for an on-line Torrance Library card application form by mid-year and better print and copy equipment as well.

As we begin 2010, we hope to see you often. Please consider joining the Torrance Public Library Foundation to help us reach our goals.

**Paula Weiner**

Talk and book-signing at our recent event with Elizabeth Beckwith who wrote *Raising the Perfect Child*.



## The Very Latest in Electronic Resources *Mango Languages & CQ Researcher*



The Torrance Public Library recently added two new electronic resources to its collections:

**Mango Languages**, a language learning program, and **CQ Researcher**, an award-winning resource for information on current hot topics and issues shaping our world.

**Mango Languages** provides language instruction in Brazilian Portuguese, Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, French, German, Greek, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Russian. English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction is

also available for Brazilian Portuguese, Polish, and Spanish.

Whether for personal enrichment, preparation for travel to another country, or improving job market skills, Library patrons can now master the basics of several languages and the service is available free for Torrance Public Library card holders.

**CQ Researcher** presents comprehensive background information on current social and political issues providing detailed statistics, opposing viewpoints, and reading recommendations. This up-to-date reference source is

used by students, teachers, librarians, journalists, and others needing to complete an assignment, preparing for a debate, writing a position paper, or becoming a quick expert on a topic.

Both services are available to library card holders through the "Online Resources" link on the Torrance Public Library home page. Access them at your convenience from home, work, or from any of the Library's six locations.

For more information about the Library's databases and electronic services, visit the Library Web site at [www.Library.TorranceCA.Gov](http://www.Library.TorranceCA.Gov) or telephone 310-618-5959.



Remodeling and refurbishment project now taking place at the Waleria Library

27-year LAPD veteran, mystery novelist, and Torrance resident  
**Connie Dial**



will discuss her book  
**Internal Affairs**

**March 3  
7:00 PM  
Katy Geissert  
Civic Center  
Library**

Books will be available for purchase  
Refreshments served



## 2009-2010 DISTINGUISHED DONORS

### MUSE

### EXXONMOBIL

### BOOKWORM

JAMES BUCKLEY  
STEPHANIE ENRIGHT  
KERI GILBERT  
KEN JACKSON  
JOHN & LISA JONES

ELLEN & BOB KIRCHER  
PAULINE KOSANKE  
HELEN NOWATKA  
SUSAN RHILINGER  
ANN & RICHARD SMISEK

SHELLEY & GRADY SMITH  
LOLA UNGAR  
TARA UNVERZAGT  
KURT WEIDEMAN  
PAULA WEINER

**FREE  
LIVE HOMEWORK HELP!**  
[www.library.TorranceCA.gov](http://www.library.TorranceCA.gov)

The Library provides an online connection for students to access a *live* chat session with a tutor — elementary school through college level

## TORRANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

### Choose from 6 Levels of Annual Membership Support

#### Book Lover

☐ \$25 to \$99 - Donors receive a TPLF membership card, a one-year subscription to TPLF newsletter, and advance notice of TPLF special events.

#### Bookworm

☐ \$100 to \$499 - Donors receive all of the above, plus a TPLF bookmark and recognition in the TPLF newsletter and website.

#### Book Collector

☐ \$500 to \$999 - Donors receive all of the above, plus five TPLF bookplates and a TPLF book bag.

#### Bibliophile

☐ \$1,000 to \$2,499 - Donors receive all of the above, plus five additional TPLF bookplates and two tickets to a TPLF special event.

#### Muse

☐ \$2,500 to \$4,999 - Donors receive all of the above, plus two additional tickets to a TPLF special event.

#### Connoisseur

☐ \$5,000 and above - Donors receive all of the above, plus a listing engraved on the permanent Library Donor Board.



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**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.Library.TorranceCA.Gov](http://www.Library.TorranceCA.Gov)**

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Torrance Public Library Foundation  
3301 Torrance Boulevard  
Torrance, CA 90503

*The Torrance Public Library Foundation is led by visionary  
and concerned citizens who provide continued financial  
resources in support of library services and programs.*

### ***Ready to join the TPLF?***

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Level \_\_\_\_\_

**Call for more information: 310-618-5950,  
or Keri at 310-963-5374.**